24th March 1955]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India were requested to arrange for an expert study of the proposal for setting up an iron and steel plant in this State with the assistance of foreign experts, if necessary, and to include the scheme as a centrally sponsored one in the Second Five-Year Plan.

" (c) The iron ore deposits occur over a wide area in the Salem district and the reserves are estimated at about 304,650,000 tons. But it is too early to say in what quantity and in what areas the ores will be mined.

" (d) None at present, but carbonised lignite when available, could be used in place of coal.

" (e) The Government do not consider it necessary to place the papers on the Table of the House."

Government hospital, Badagara.

* 1609 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether any emergency acquisition proceedings have been started for the acquisition of a site for the extension of Badagara Government hospital?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir."

Transport of casuarina.

* 1610 Q.—SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any petition, dated 19th January 1955, was received from the owners of casuarina plantations in Markanam village, South Arcot district, with regard to the hardship caused to them in the matter of transport of casuarina with the permission of the Forest Officers after the issue of G.O. No. 1887 (Agriculture), dated 8th June 1954; and

(b) if so, the action so far taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes. Sir, a petition, dated 19th January 1955, from a landlord of Markanam has been received.

" (b) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests."

Exemption of milk from sales tax.

* 1611 Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any copy of the resolutions passed by the Board of Directors of the Tiruchirappalli-Srirangam Co-operative Central Milk Supply Union, Limited, recently that milk be exempted from the levy of sales tax has been received by the Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?